

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONS

Please amend the title as follows:

SYSTEM AND PROCESS METHOD FOR FACILITATING EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR PARTS AND ASSEMBLIES WITH A MECHANISM FOR ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY SELECTION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before the Field of Invention, please insert the following paragraph:

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/251,585 filed on December 7, 2000.

At page 9, please amend the paragraph at lines 5-16 as follows:

Authorization frame 2230 provides a responsible approving authority with the ability to digitally sign off on each and every specification. According to an embodiment of the invention, as opposed to the current method where one signature is given to approve a single drawing containing a large number of specifications, a responsible party may be forced to approve or reject the specifications. Authorization frame 230 may have two buttons, such as a mouse or keyboard activated button. One button (*e.g.*, an “Apply Signature” button) may associate a digital signature with the specification indicating the approval of the specification by the digital signature owner. A second button (*e.g.*, a “Reject” button) may allow the approving authority to indicate that the specification is wrong. According to an embodiment of the invention, an

authorization frame may provide a mechanism for reducing errors in manufacturing specifications[[,]] by ~~force~~ forcing the approving authority to carefully consider each and every specification.

At page 17, please amend the paragraph at lines 21-28 as follows:

In this embodiment of the invention, Fig. 9 illustrates ~~illustrate~~ the selected Design Definition which may be approved only when each and every subcomponent 900, 902 has been digitally signed. Final approval of the selected Design Definition occurs when an authorized signatory checks the signature box 904. A legal notice 906 informs the signatory of the significance of the signature. In this embodiment of the invention, when the signature box 804 is checked, a message is sent to the server hosting the system updating the central database with a timestamp and the identity of the signatory. Once the digital signature has been affixed and ~~an~~ accepted at the server, the name of the signatory and the signature date is displayed in a box 908.

At page 18, please amend the paragraph at lines 20-31 as follows:

Fig. 11[[,]] illustrates a feature specification screen including instructions and instruction description images. In this example of this embodiment of the invention, a feature specification may have one or more instructions assigned. These are instructions directed to the manufacturer of the part and may define any number of requirements imposed by the designer or the part or the creator of the Design Definition. The ‘Instructions’ panel 1100 contains a list 1102 of one or more instructions associated with the parent feature specification, details of a selected instruction including the name and basic text content ~~context~~ of the instruction 1104, a signature check box 1106, and a legal notice indicating the legal meaning of the digital signature 1108. As described

earlier, the instruction list 1102 is color-coded. Green text indicates that the instruction and all of its subcomponents have been digitally signed. Red text indicates that the instruction or one or more of its subcomponents have not yet been signed. For each instruction in the list 1102 that has been signed, the name of the signatory and the date of the signature is displayed.

At page 19, please amend the paragraph at lines 6-16 as follows:

Figure 12 illustrates a feature specification screen, including instruction standards. In this example of this embodiment of the invention, an instruction may have one or more standards assigned. These are standards used to enforce uniformity in manufacturing processes. The 'Standards' panel 1200 contains a list 1202 of one or more standards associated with the parent instruction, details of a selected standard including its name and description 1204, the name of the publisher of the standard 1206, a button 1208 that, when activated, launches a screen showing the full text of the selected standard, a signature check box 1210, and a legal notice describing the legal meaning of the digital signature 1212 (21). The standards list 1202 is color-coded. Green text indicates that the standard has been digitally signed. Red text indicates that the standard has not been signed. For each standard in the list 1202 that has been signed, the name of the signatory and the date of the signature has been displayed.